



Reflection • Tolerance • Self-Discipline • Individuality
Responsibility • Respect • Consideration • Achievement
Trust • Commitment • Co-operation • Honesty

West Horndon Primary School



**West Horndon
Primary School**



Welcome: Mr Matt O'Grady, Headteacher, says...

As headteacher of West Horndon Primary School, I couldn't be prouder of our school and the children and staff I have the privilege of sharing it with. We believe we really stand out, and I'm excited to tell you how.

We do things a bit differently here

Our curriculum is ambitious, and our expectations are high, but above all our teaching is FUN and exciting. We aim to offer a broad range of engaging experiences, and this means the children are interested, engaged, and happy to be here. We believe that happy children learn best!

Character development

Our top priority is ensuring a broad, rounded learning experience. At the heart of all our school activities is the drive to develop character in our children. We aim to build a community of young people who are high achieving, resilient, tolerant, compassionate and able to make great choices.

Brilliant team

I'm very lucky to have a formidable team of teaching staff to work alongside. Their innovation, creativity, energy, enthusiasm and dedication to giving the children at West Horndon the most fantastic education possible amazes me.

Outstanding at standing out!

All these facts are what makes our school stand out. But there are a few more surprising ones: We have our own radio station, West Horndon Radio, run by the children. We love tech, being outdoors and our school chickens. We do a lot of cooking and have a real double-decker bus in our playground! Come and see for yourself - we'd love to meet you. Call the office on 01277 811741 to book an appointment.

School day: settling in and curriculum

School hours

Our school day starts at 8.45am and ends at 3.30pm.

Uniform

Our school uniform consists of black bottoms, red polo shirts and red sweatshirts or cardigans with our school logo. On PE days children wear their PE kit to school.

School meals

Lunchtime is one of the best bits of the day at West Horndon. Our menu is inclusive, delicious and nutritious. Children have the choice of booking a school meal or bringing a healthy packed lunch from home.

Free school meals

For children in Reception to Year 2, the government provides free school meals. Children in Year 3 and above may be entitled if your family receive certain benefits. Find out more from Essex County Council.

A bespoke curriculum to make learning irresistible

Our curriculum meets all requirements of the National Curriculum, brought to life through meaningful, engaging, practical, playful learning layers.

The curriculum is divided into three stages

1. Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5.
2. Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7.
3. Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11.

Challenging and inspiring children

Depth of knowledge is the ultimate goal for our children. Through techniques like spaced repetition, interleaving and regular retrieval of previously learned content we increase knowledge storage and retrieval, resulting in long-term mastery of concepts and skills.

Commando Joe's

This is top secret, but Commando Joe's is a unique character education curriculum designed to develop character traits and values. Children take on enjoyable, relevant missions that involve cooperating and learning with their peers to grow skills that support them in and out of school.

Enhanced provision for speech and language

Alongside our mainstream classes we have an enhanced provision for speech and language. This class is usually for children with an EHCP who would benefit from focused teaching and speech and language therapy alongside careful integration with their mainstream peers. Our Deputy Head and SENDCo, Mr Jepson, will be happy to tell you more.

Enriched curriculum: trips, outdoor learning, music and clubs

50 Things

Our learners deserve a broad range of experiences during their learning journey with us, so we developed our '50 Things' to detail the enhanced curriculum entitlement for children at West Horndon. The full list is available on our website and includes experiences such as travelling on a train, visiting a world heritage site and performing to an audience outside of school.

Trips

We love a school trip! When we can't provide learning experiences in school, we look for places that can. School visits that help tick off our '50 Things' list and more have included:

- Ironbridge World Heritage Site.
- The Imperial War Museum.
- Blists Hill Victorian Town.
- Performing in the Young Voices Choir at the O2 Arena.
- An open top London bus tour for the whole school!

Active movement and outdoor learning

Being outdoors makes us happy and healthy

Alongside PE lessons and swimming, we take part in the daily mile. Our Forest School sessions help children navigate real situations where they can build confidence and independence. We have our own specialist sports coach and we take part in as many sporting events as we can.

OPAL - Outdoor Play and Learning

The quality of play matters. OPAL has helped us transform lunchtimes into a creative, collaborative, active and imaginative social experience. Outdoor play is treated as a curricular area, planned for, resourced and staffed.

First Class Friday

As part of our broad curriculum offer on Friday afternoons our children take part in First Class Friday. In mixed aged groups they work with a different adult each half term, learning new skills, building new relationships and having new experiences. Recent activities have included:

- World Cooking.
- Archery.
- Origami.
- A taste of Italy.
- Science Magic.

Clubs

The school offers an exciting range of lunchtime activities and after-school clubs. Recent examples include.

- Art.
- STEM.
- University Challenge (quiz club).
- Choir.
- Football.

A club timetable is available to download from our website.

Admissions...and getting involved

Admissions arrangements

Admissions to our school are decided and managed by the local authority. Parents of prospective pupils should contact Essex County Council for details on admission arrangements. For Mid Year admissions, we love to share what West Horndon has to offer with new families, but we have limited spaces. Call the office for available spaces in your required year group and to book a visit. Admissions to our enhanced provision for Speech and Language are also managed by a separate part of the Local Authority.

Getting involved

Voluntary helpers

We're grateful for support from volunteers to help our children get the most out of school. You can become a Reading Champion and come into school to encourage reading for pleasure and boost children's confidence. We also have an active parents' association who also welcome help and new members! Please speak to the school office if you would like to help.

Governorship

Another way you can help West Horndon is by considering governorship. Being a school governor is demanding but highly rewarding. Governors are responsible for working with the school to make sure it delivers a good quality education and makes sound decisions. Governors are made up of members of staff, the community and parents; when a parent governor position comes up, we will inform you and ask for volunteers.



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